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To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Delaware Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) update

December 31, 2008 – Farm 1 status

Dr. Heather Hirst, Delaware State Veterinarian, announced the University of Kentucky **results of the December 29, 2008 EHV-1 blood and nasal swab samples** of the 13 horses remaining under quarantine in Barn 1:

- All thirteen horses remaining in the quarantined Barn 1 tested negative for EHV-1 on blood and nasal swab PCR tests.
- The quarantine of Barn 1 was lifted this morning following inspection of the 13 horses by the State Veterinarian and her staff.
- The last clinical case of Herpesvirus infection was removed from the barn on 7 December, and samples were drawn on 29 December.

December 31, 2008 – Farm 2 status

No fevers or clinical disease have been identified in the horse population at Farm 2. The last clinical case of Herpesvirus infection was removed from the barn on 17 December.

- Farm 2 will be tested for lifting of the quarantine the week of January 5 if no clinical signs have developed.
- The quarantine will remain in effect pending test results.

Regarding the test results on farm 1, Dr. Hirst said, “I am encouraged by the test results, but I also caution everyone in the equine industry to continue to maintain the highest level of biosecurity and observation for new cases. Prevention and containment of new cases can only occur if everyone continues in their efforts to minimize the spread of disease.”

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